

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name	<u>Morgan House</u>
Other name/site number	177-5400-1249

Street & number 1335 SW Harrison Street ☐ not for publication
City or town Topeka ☐ vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Shawnee Code 177 Zip code 66612

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (If ☐ see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz 5 March 2004

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- ☐ removed from the National Register _____
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Morgan House
Name of property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property Morgan House

County and State Shawnee County, Kansas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ECONOMICS

Period of Significance

1904-1953

Significant Dates

1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Harrison Morgan

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

D.P. Scott

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ Previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

County and State Shawnee County, Kansas

Acreage of Property less than one acre

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Figure 1 consists of four diagrams labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4, each showing a grid of points representing a coordinate system. The grid is divided into three sections: Zone, Easting, and Northing. Diagram 1 shows a grid with numerical values for each coordinate. Diagrams 2, 3, and 4 show the same grid structure with different values or patterns, illustrating how the relationship between the coordinates changes.

☐ See continuation sheet

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Name/title Melissa Fisher Isaacs, National Register Intern

Organization Kansas State Historical Society

Date 3 December 2003

Street & number 6425 SW 6th Avenue

Telephone (785) 272-8681

City or town Topeka

State Kansas

Zip code 66615

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Ute M. Mueller

street & number 1335 SW Harrison Street

telephone (785) 232-6711

city or town Topeka

state Kansas

zip code 66612

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Morgan House
Topeka, Kansas

Description

The Morgan House, located at 1335 SW Harrison Street in Topeka, Kansas, is a two story shingle-clad dwelling that exhibits the influence of both eclecticism and Craftsman design. Large uncoursed stones were used to create the foundation, porch columns, and chimney. Wide, overhanging eaves accented by brackets contribute to the structure's eclecticism. An element of the Craftsman style is evident in this house in the flared wall profiles at the wall-foundation junction, the base of the bay window, and the dormers' wall-roof junctions.

With the exception of the veranda that wraps around the home's southeast corner, the front, east-facing facade of the Morgan house is symmetrically arranged. The entrance to the house is sheltered by a front gabled porch supported by massive stone pillars. Four steps lead to the front door, which projects forward from the wall plane to form a bay; single windows with diamond-shaped divided lights on either side of the door complete the entrance bay. The first floor of the house also receives illumination through two double hung windows, one placed on either side of the entrance. On the southeast corner of the home, wrought iron posts extend up from stone pillars to support the roof of the veranda; simple wooden railings span the distances between the stone pillars. The veranda roof and the wrought iron posts that support it are later additions to the house.

A contrasting beltline of trim distinguishes the first floor from the second floor. The second floor is fenestrated by three windows: a small window with diamond-shaped divided lights centered over the porch, flanked to either side by double hung windows with upper sashes of diamond-shaped divided lights.

The attic dormer creates a break in the cornice line; this break is echoed in the dormer's discontinuous cornice line. The dormer's flared walls extend outward beyond this break in the cornice. A three-part window allows light into the attic; the center window has an upper sash of diamond-shaped divided lights, while the flanking windows are single sashes of diamond-shaped divided lights. The dormer's wooden gable ornamentation emphasizes the gabled roof's flared eaves.

A cross-gabled extension projects from the south elevation. The ground floor of this extension is highlighted by a bay window; the second floor is fenestrated by one double-hung window with an

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upper sash of diamond-shaped divided lights. The broken cornice line and gable ornamentation echo those of the front facade's attic dormer. The east-facing facade of this extension is punctuated on each floor by one double-hung window with upper sash of diamond-shaped divided lights; the west-facing facade features one second floor window and a door on the ground floor.

To the east of the cross-gabled extension, the south elevation of the main body of the house features one double-hung window with diamond-shaped divided lights on each floor. The attic story is fenestrated by a ribbon of three windows. The center window has an upper sash of diamond-shaped divided lights; the outer windows are single sashes with diamond-shaped divided lights. To the west of the cross-gabled extension, the south elevation is marked by an attic dormer, a small, single light window on the second floor and a door protected by a shed roof which extends west from the cross-gabled extension.

The Morgan House's west elevation features an asymmetrically placed front-facing gable. The north end of the gable is intersected by a brick chimney. On the third floor a door, accessed by a flight of metal stairs, is centered beneath the peak of the gable. On the second floor, a door provides access to a small balcony; a ribbon of three windows is situated south of the door. The first floor is dominated by a projecting bay which serves as the base for the second floor balcony. The bay features two double hung windows on its west face and a door on its south face. The north end of the bay is partially obscured by a flight of wooden stairs which connects to a landing that serves both the second floor balcony and the flight of metal stairs descending from the third floor.

The home's interior retains much of its historic integrity. Elements such as dark wood window moldings, box beam ceilings, French doors, fireplaces, hardwood floors, and door hardware are intact and excellently preserved. One major alteration to the house is the 1950s renovation of the third floor into an apartment with bathroom and kitchenette. The enclosed porch at the rear of the house was recently converted to a breakfast nook/mudroom. The home continues to convey the graciousness that was the hallmark of the time and the neighborhood in which it was built.

The property on which the Morgan House sits also includes a recently constructed garage, which is a non-contributing feature. This garage is a one-story, gable end structure with a large overhead door that opens to the alley. The garage is roofed with asphalt shingles and is clapboard-clad.

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Statement of Significance

The Morgan House (c. 1904) is historically significant under Criterion B for its association with both Harrison Morgan and the Mulvane family. The house is also significant under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Movements.

Historical background and significance:

In the late 1890s, Harrison Morgan came to Topeka from his native Connecticut to manage the Excelsior Coke and Gas Company. Soon after his arrival, his personal and professional lives became permanently intertwined with those of the Mulvanes, one of Topeka's most prominent families. On January 12, 1898, he married Margaret Mulvane. Margaret's brother David Mulvane was a political leader in Topeka and a member of the Republican national committee for more than twenty-five years. Her father, Joab Mulvane, had joined his brother John in Topeka in 1876, and together the brothers created a business empire that included railroad building, utility companies, banking, and farming. Philanthropy was also important to Joab Mulvane, whose benefactions included the Science Hall at Baker University, the Mulvane Art Museum, and an endowment to Washburn University. Upon Joab's death in 1929, a *Kansas City Star* article recalled that "John R. and Joab Mulvane were for almost half a century the kings of the business world of Kansas."

By 1905, Harrison Morgan had become the assistant secretary of the Shawnee Fire Insurance Company of which Joab Mulvane was president. By the early 1920s, Morgan was the manager of the Mulvane Building. In 1925, the Bank of Topeka merged with the Prudential Trust Company to create Topeka's first million dollar bank. Morgan was named assistant cashier of the resulting National Bank of Topeka, which was directed by John and Joab Mulvane. Harrison Morgan later also became a director of this bank.

On November 26, 1901, Harrison Morgan purchased lots 501, 502, and 503 in Topeka's Huntoon Addition. On May 24, 1904, he sold these lots to his wife for one dollar. In July 1904, Harrison Morgan obtained a permit to build the house at 1335 Harrison Street. The house, which was built by local contractor D.P. Scott, was expected to cost \$6,000 and be completed by December 1, 1904. By February 6, 1905, the *Topeka Daily Capital* was reporting that Mrs. Harrison Morgan was entertaining friends at her "pretty new home."

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The design of the Morgan family's home clearly reflects the influence of Eclecticism. Eclecticism was very popular in residential architecture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, allowing architects and builders to draw from a variety of stylistic influences. While essentially an upscale Craftsman bungalow, the Morgan House also exhibits the influence of the Italianate and the Queen Anne styles. Ornamental brackets support the cornice line. Decorative trusses grace the gable ends. Fluted pilasters with intricately carved capitals frame the entrance to the main staircase.

The Craftsman style was popular in American housing from the late 1890s through the 1920s. This style sprang out of the Arts and Crafts movement and gained momentum due to the California bungalows of Greene and Greene and *The Craftsman* magazine published by Gustav Stickley. The architecture and applied arts of the Craftsman style embodied an appreciation for fine craftsmanship and the natural world. The use of natural materials, such as the wood shingles and stone porch pillars of the Morgan House, tied the house to the landscape. The uncluttered simplicity and unpainted woodwork of the Craftsman interior refuted the extravagance of the Victorian era and emphasized the inherent beauty of natural materials.

A particularly noteworthy influence of the Craftsman style on the design of the Morgan House can be seen in the home's floor plan. Although many of the house's exterior and interior details reflect the Victorian vogue for Eclecticism, the layout and use of rooms clearly place the house within the era of modern domestic architecture. Eschewing the older hall-and-parlor floor plan that enforced the formality of Victorian social life, open and semi-open plans such as that of the Morgan House were advocated by Gustav Stickley and other Arts and Crafts proponents as a means of promoting family interaction.

That the Morgan family chose to construct their new home on the 1300 block of Harrison Street marked them as members of Topeka's elite society. At the time, the most fashionable street of all was Topeka Boulevard, located one block west of Harrison Street. A building boom in the 1890s and early 1900s pushed the growing upper middle class neighborhood outward to encompass adjacent streets as well. Just a few blocks south of the State Capitol, the Morgans' neighborhood was one of newly built, fashionable Foursquares inhabited by the families of successful business owners, railroad agents, and physicians. In the succeeding years, this neighborhood and its fine homes have suffered a reversal in fortune. While some homes were destroyed by the tornado that wrecked havoc on Topeka in 1966, many others have fallen prey to neglect and the wrecking ball. Many of the gracious homes that once stood along Topeka Boulevard, including that of Margaret's father Joab,

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have given way to the commercial strip. 1335 Harrison Street is one of the few homes in the area which still conveys a sense of the prestigious neighborhood of which it was once a part.

Both Harrison and Margaret were active in many facets of the Topeka community throughout their lives. Margaret was a member of the First Methodist Church of Topeka, and a member of the official board of Ingleside, a home for elderly women. She was deeply involved in the activities of the Red Cross during World War I and the beginning of World War II. Harrison was one of the oldest members of the Topeka Rotary Club. He was a longtime member of the Washburn University Board of Trustees, as well as the City Library Board. Like his wife, he was involved with the Red Cross and the First Methodist Church. An avid golfer, he was one of the founders of the Topeka Country Club.

Margaret Mulvane Morgan died in 1942; the couple had no children. Although Harrison Morgan had become a successful businessman in his own right, it was in his direction of the Mulvane legacy after his wife's death that he most significantly impacted the Topeka community. He funded the establishment of the Margaret Mulvane Morgan Memorial Hall at Washburn University, as well as the Margaret Mulvane Morgan Art Fund, which provided for the permanent maintenance of the Mulvane Art Museum. He donated the David Mulvane house at 11th and Van Buren Streets to the City of Topeka for use as a children's library. Upon his own death in 1953, his will directed that Washburn University receive an outright gift of \$200,000, as well as the residue of the estate, which totaled over \$500,000.

As the Morgan House approaches its 100th anniversary, it continues to reflect the charm and dignity that characterized the neighborhood of which it was a part. The home serves as a reminder of the prominent role Harrison Morgan and the Mulvane family played in the development of the city of Topeka.

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Bibliography

"Bequest to Washburn Will Exceed \$500,000." *Topeka Capital*, 4 June 1953.

Deed Records.

"An Early Day Show Home Comes Down." *Topeka State Journal*, 25 September 1953.

"Harrison Morgan, Financier, Dead." *Topeka State Journal*, 28 May 1953.

"Harrison S. Morgan's Generosity." *Topeka Capital*, 4 June 1953.

Hastings, Karen and Ute Mueller. Draft nomination, 1996.

"H.S. Morgan, Banker, Dies." *Topeka Capital*, 28 May 1953.

"H.S. Morgan to Build." *Topeka State Journal*, 27 July 1904.

"Illness Fatal to Mrs. H.S. Morgan." *Topeka State Journal*, 6 July 1942.

"An Informal Afternoon." *Topeka Daily Capital*, 8 February 1905.

"Joab Mulvane, Philanthropist, Banker, Is Dead." *Topeka Daily Capital*, 27 December 1929.

"Mrs. H.S. Morgan, Well-Known Topeka Woman, Dead." *Topeka State Journal*, 7 July 1942.

Record of Building Permits Issued, 26 July 1904.

Topeka State Journal, 7 February 1905.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 501 and 503 on Harrison Street on Block 10 of the Huntoon Addition of the City of Topeka. The property is bounded on the east by Harrison Street, on the south by 14th Street, on the north by adjacent property lines, and on the west by an alley.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains all land historically associated with it.

Photographs

The following information is common to all photographs:

1. Morgan House
2. Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas
3. Melissa Fisher Isaacs, photographer
5. Original negatives located at the Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is specific to individual photographs:

4. 22 July 2003
6. View of east-facing facade
7. #1

4. 22 July 2003
6. View of south-facing facade
7. #2

4. 22 July 2003
6. View of north-facing facade
7. #3

4. 22 July 2003
6. View of west-facing facade
7. #4

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4. 22 July 2003

6. Detail of east-facing facade

7. #5

4. 21 November 2003

6. View of living room, camera facing northwest

7. #6

4. 21 November 2003

6. View of dining room, camera facing southeast

7. #7

4. 21 November 2003

6. View of formal staircase, camera facing southwest

7. #8

4. 21 November 2003

6. Detail of pilaster in living room

7. #9

4. 21 November 2003

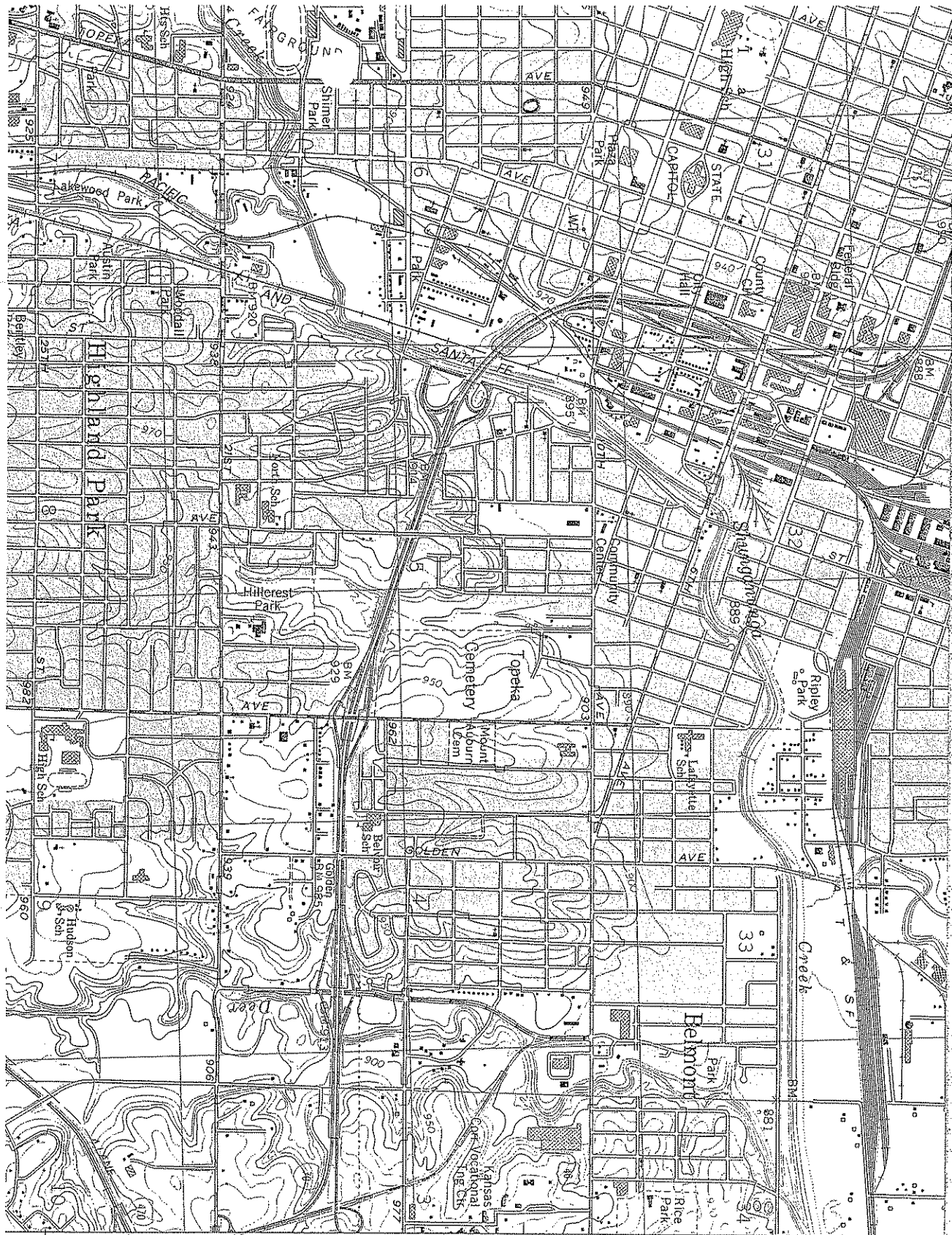
6. View of sitting room, camera facing south

7. #10

4. 21 November 2003

6. View of second floor staircase railing, camera facing southwest

7. #11



INTERCHANGE 20 MI. EAST TOPEKA INTERCHANGE 0.3 MI.

230"
MORGAN HOUSE
TOPEKA, SHAWNEE
COUNTY, KANSAS
UTM REFERENCE:
15/269930/4324600